

CLAIMS

1. A display and input device, comprising:
a substrate (30) comprising a front surface (8) and a rear surface (10);
5 a plurality of layers (32,34,35,36,37,39) provided on the front surface (8)
of the substrate (30), the plurality of layers (32,34,35,36,37,39) being operable
as a display viewable from the front surface (8) side of the device; and
circuitry (52, 54) connected to the substrate (30) for detecting capacitive
coupling between a user's finger (12) and the substrate (30) such that the
10 substrate (30) is operable as a touchpad for sensing a user's finger (12)
touching, or being located in close proximity to, the rear surface (10) of the
substrate (30).
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the substrate (30) is
15 flexible.
3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the substrate (30) is
made of a conducting material.
- 20 4. A device according to claim 3 when dependent from claim 2,
wherein the substrate (30) comprises a flexible foil.
5. A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the substrate (30) is
made of an insulating material with a conductive coating on the rear surface
25 (10).
6. A device according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the substrate
(30) comprises a protective coating (60) on the rear surface (10), the protective
coating (60) being sufficiently thin to allow the capacitive coupling between a
30 user's finger (12) and the substrate (30) to be detected.

7. A device according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the plurality of layers (32,34,35,36,37,39) are operable as an electrophoretic display.

8. A device according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the circuitry
5 (52, 54) comprises a plurality of ammeters (54), each connected to a different point on the edge of the substrate (30).

9. A device according to claim 8, wherein the substrate (30) is substantially rectangular and the plurality of ammeters (54) comprises a
10 respective ammeter (54) placed at each corner of the substrate (30).

10. Use of a display device as a combined display and input device, the display device comprising a substrate (30) comprising a front surface (8) and a rear surface (10), and a plurality of layers (32,34,35,36,37,39) provided
15 on the front surface (8) of the substrate (30), the plurality of layers (32,34,35,36,37,39) being operable as a display, wherein the use as a combined display and input device is implemented by using the rear surface (10) of the substrate (30) as a capacitive coupling sheet.